

Message Text

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TAGS: N/A
SUBJECT: NEW CAE CABINET

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER ANGE PATASSE, WHO WAS CHOSEN
BY BOKASSA LAST WEEK TO FORM THE EMPIRE'S FIRST GOVERNMENT,
HAS SELECTED A TEAM WHICH IS BOTH SMALLER AND PROBABLY MORE
CAPABLE THAN THE OUTGOING CABINET. THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER,
HOWEVER, MAY NOT BE AS EASY TO DEAL WITH AS WAS HIS
PREDECESSOR. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NEW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 14 INCLUDES 21
MEMBERS--DOWN FROM 31 IN THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. PRIME
MINISTER PATASSE HAS GIVEN UP DIRECT CONTROL OF ANY MINISTRIES
HIMSELF.

2. OF THE MORE IMPORTANT FIGURES, ALPHONSE KOYAMBA MOVES
UP FROM THIRD TO FIRST VICE PRIME MINISTER AND HAS FINANCE ADDED
TO HIS PORTFOLIO OF THE PUBLIC TREASURY; HENRI MAIDOU CONTINUES
AS SECOND VICE PRIME MINISTER WITH YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE
ADDED TO HIS EXISTING PORTFOLIO OF EDUCATION; ANDRE-DIEUDONNE
MAGALE CONTINUES AS MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING (THEREBY
SCOTCHING RUMORS OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE LATEST COUP PLOT);
JOSEPH POTOLOT CONTINUES AS MINISTER OF STATE BUT NOW IN CHARGE
OF JUSTICE; JEAN-ROBERT ZANA BECOMES MINISTER OF STATE AND HAS
INTERIOR ADDED TO HIS PORTFOLIO OF NATIONAL DEFENSE; ANDRE-CHRISTIAN
ZANA-FE TOUAM-BONA MOVES UP TO MINISTER OF STATE, STILL IN CHARGE
OF THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF THE GOVERNMENT; AND JEAN-PAUL
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MOKODOPO, FORMERLY IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH BECOMES MINISTER

OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL INCLUDE JEAN-PIERRE LEBOUDER, FORMERLY HEAD OF THE STATE COTTON OPERATION AND RECENT IVP GRANTEE, WHO BECOMES MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, GEORGES PINERT, FORMERLY THE PRESIDENT'S PHYSICIAN, WHO BECOMES MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, AND GUILLAUME MOKEMAT-KENGUEMBA, FORMER MIISTER AND MOST RECENTLY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PUBLIC WORKS, WHO BECOMES MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

4. THE DEPARTURES ARE MORE NUMEROUS. THEY INCLUDE: FRANCOIS GON, FORMER FIRST VICE PRIME MINISTER AND RUMORED AS INVOLVED IN THE LATEST COUP ATTEMPT; LOUIS ALAZOULA, FORMER MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF STATE CORPORATIONS; CLEMENT NGAI-VOUETO, FORMER MINISTER OF STAE FOR INTERIOR; MICHEL BANGUE-TANDET, FORMER MINISTER OF STATE CONTROLLING EXPENSES OF STATE PERSONNEL; JEAN SEBRIQ, FORMERLY MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF ARTISANS AND SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, JOAQUIM DA-SILVA N'ZENGUE, FORMERLY MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF PARTY AFFAIRS; ANTONIO FRANCK, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER; LOUIS-PIERRE GAMBA, FORMERLY IN CHARGE OF THE RADIO; AUGUST IN DALLO-BEFIO, FORMERLY MINISTER OF JUSTICE; CLEMENT KOKPAVO, FORMERLY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE; JEAN-JACQUES SAGANZA, FORMERLY IN CHARGE OF THE STATE MOTOR POOL; CHRISTIAN LINGAMA-TOLEQUE, FORMERLY IN CHARGE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PRESSE; BERNARD BELOUM, FORMERLY MINISTER OF YOUTH & CULTURE; AND THEODORE-BLAISE LAMINE, FORMERLY MINISTER AT THE PRESIDENCY. (IN FACT MINISTERS WHO OCCUPIED STAFF FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS BANGUE-TANDET AND SAGANZA, MAY CONTINUE IN THE IMPERIAL ESTABLISHMENT BUT WITHOUT MINISTERIAL TITLES.)

5. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE NEW CABINET MAY BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THE OLD. SEVERAL INEFFECTUAL MINISTERS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED, AND THOSE ADDED BRING REAL EXPERTISE TO THEIR NEW JOBS. FROM OUR OWN PAROCHIAL STANDPOINT, WE NOTE THAT THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER ONCE SERVED IN THE CAR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND SPEAKS A BIT OF ENGLISH. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, WE DOUBT THAT HE WILL BE AS EASY TO WORK WITH AS WAS HIS PREDECESSOR. WE WILL SEND THE COMPLETE LIST OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS IT IS PUBLISHED.

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